USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

Iran: Crop Progress Report

MY 2009/10

October – November Summary **November 21, 2008**

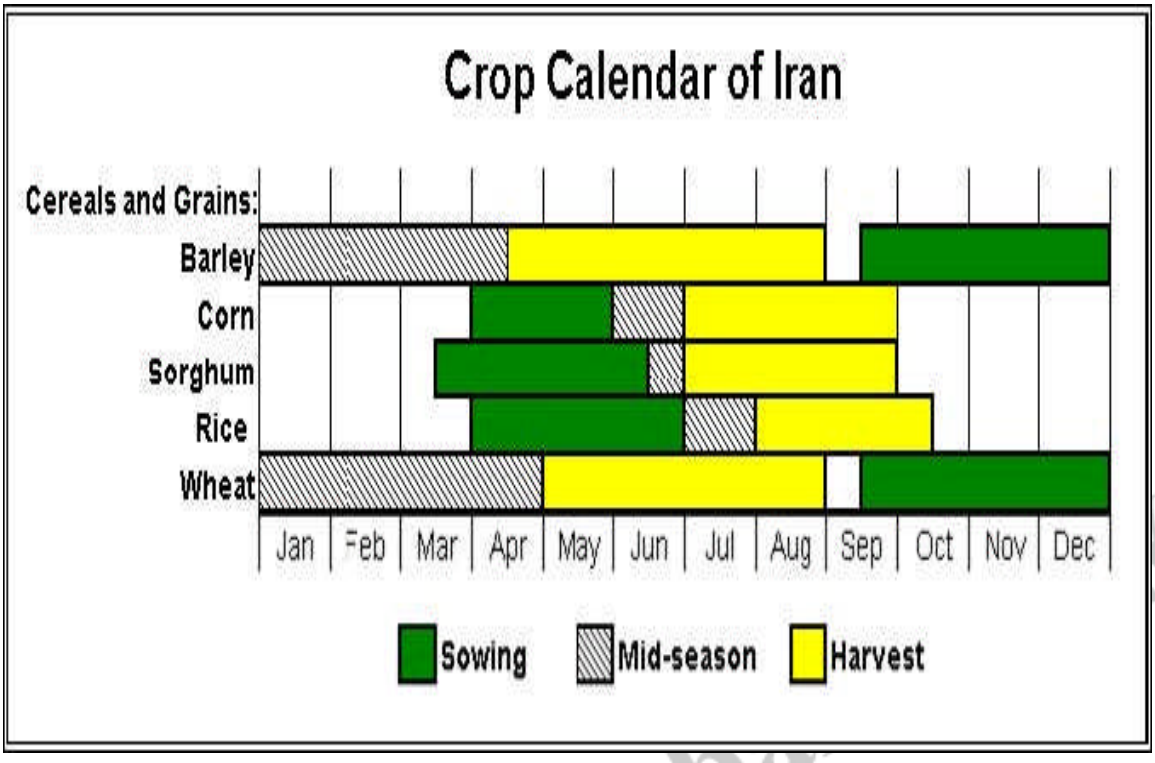
(1) Over 60% of Iran's total small grain production occurs in the northwest portion of the country (Figure 1), including 73% of all rainfed wheat and 66% of all rainfed barley (Figure 2).

(2) Cumulative precipitation through October and November has favored the central-northwest provinces of Iran, including Kermanshah, Hamadan, Lorestan and Kordastan, which cumulatively account for over 30% of all rainfed wheat production and 30% of rainfed barley. October precipitation was low in the lower northwest region, specifically the province Khuzestan which is a high national producer of both wheat and barley (>14% of total production); meanwhile November precipitation has been low in the northwest most regions where abundant rainfed wheat production occurs (Figure 3).

(3) Current weather forecasts indicate that precipitation in the near future will continue the trend of falling primarily in the central-northwest provinces only (Figure 4). Khuzestan and the northwest most provinces will require significant rain events in late November/ early December in order to reach ideal planting conditions.

(4) Average temperature was generally above normal throughout October but had returned to normal or below normal temperatures by the second decade of November (Figure 5.). This should allow for snow accumulation in the higher altitudes and decrease evapotranspiration for continued soil moisture, both of which are positives to grain production.

(5) Winter snow pack is an import variable for small grain production in Iran, with the spring-melt runoff dictating the available soil moisture and irrigation capabilities for farmers. Initial snow area estimates show MY 2009/10 accumulated snow cover by the second week in November to be greater than the five year average, with conditions comparable to snowpack of MY 2005/06. As expected, early snow accumulation is occurring at the highest altitudes, particularly in the East Azarbay e-Jan and Gilan provinces (Figure 6). Snow accumulation monitoring will continue throughout the winter.



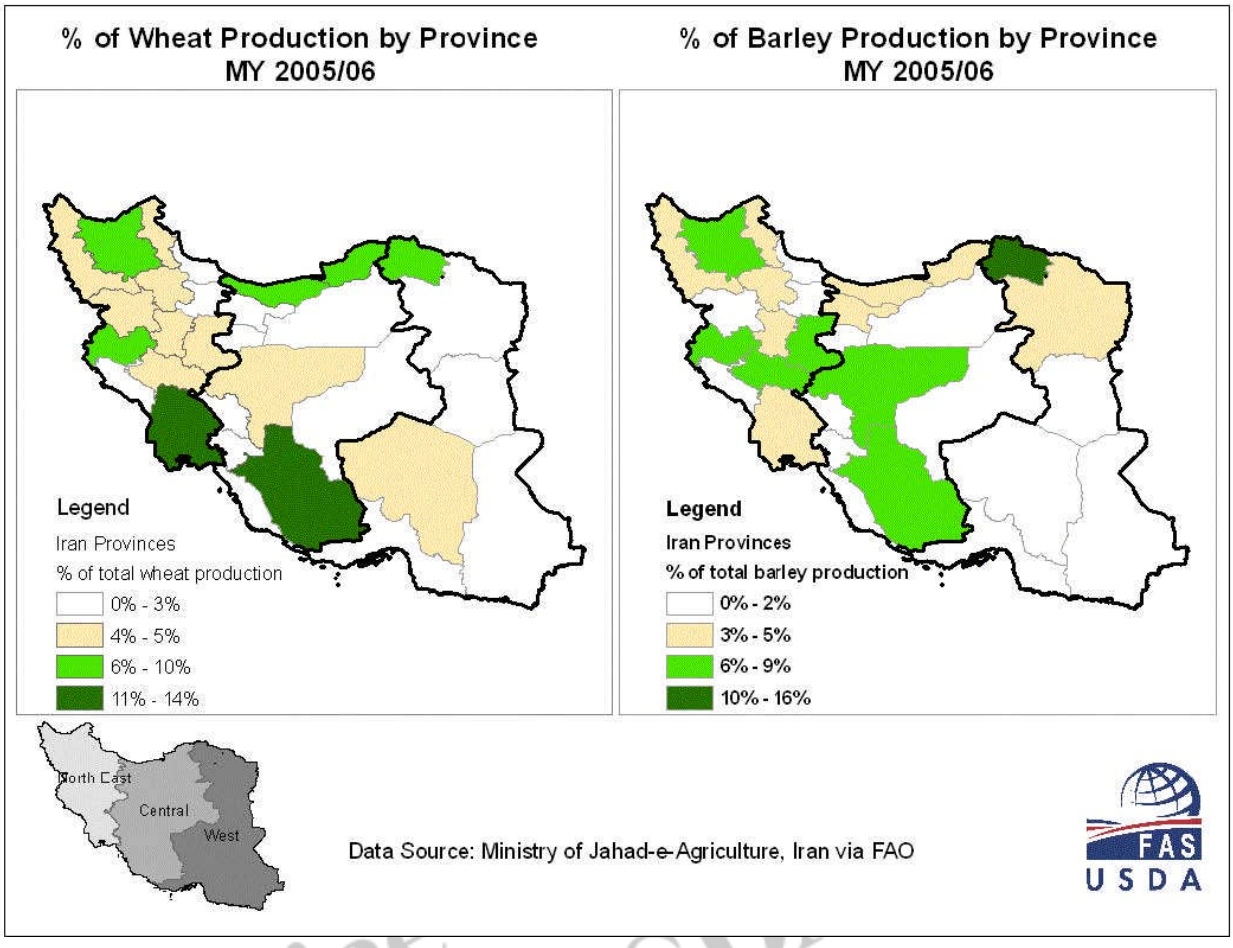


Figure 1. Breakdown by province, percent of total wheat and barley production in Iran.

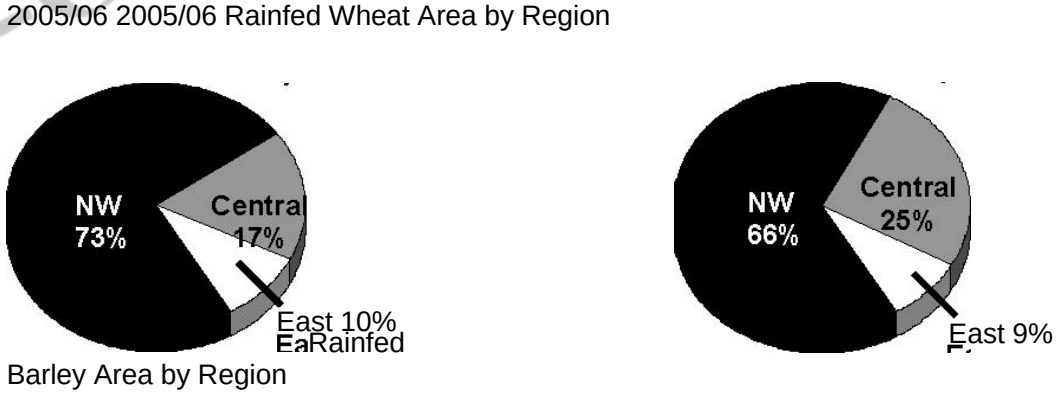


Figure 2. Percentage of total rainfed wheat and barley according to region.
Data Source: Ministry of Jahad-e-Agriculture, Iran via FAO

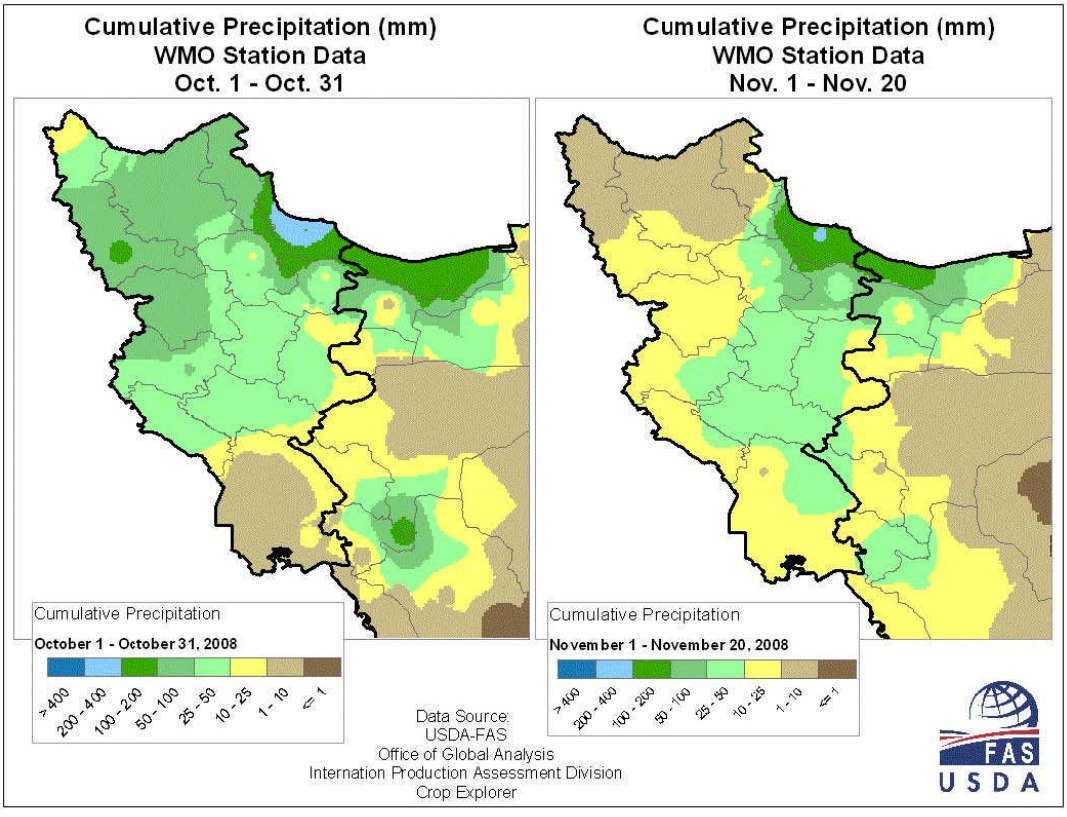


Figure 3. Comparison of cumulative precipitation between the month of October and the first two decades of November.

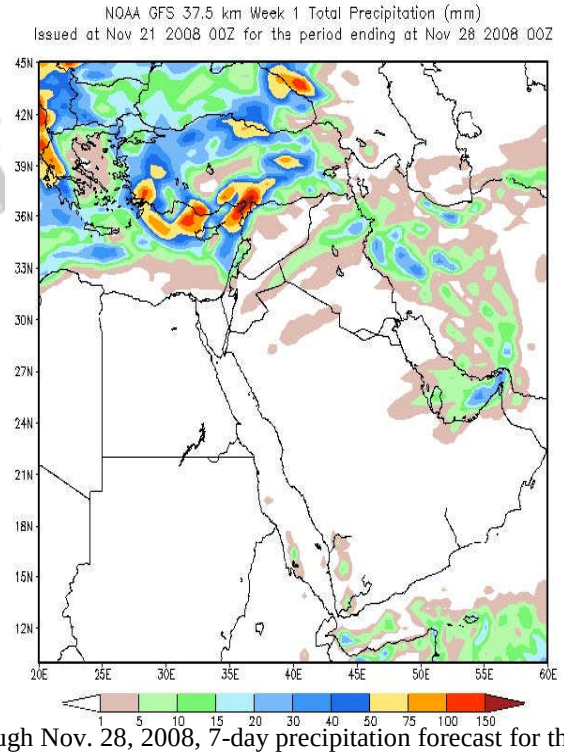


Figure 4. Nov. 21 through Nov. 28, 2008, 7-day precipitation forecast for the Middle East. Source: NOAA National Weather Service, Climate Prediction Center.

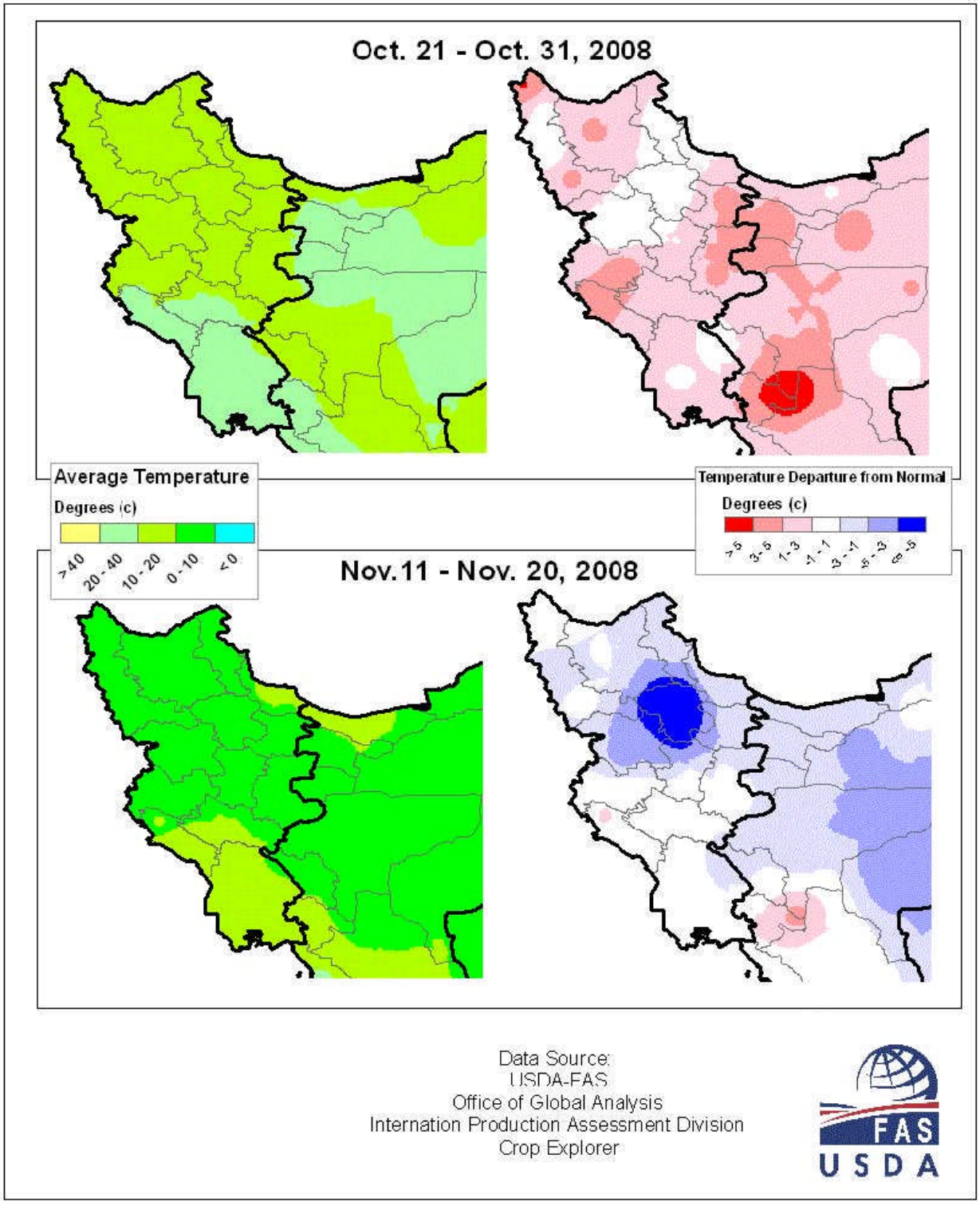


Figure 5. Comparison of average temperature and temperature anomalies between October and November, 2008.

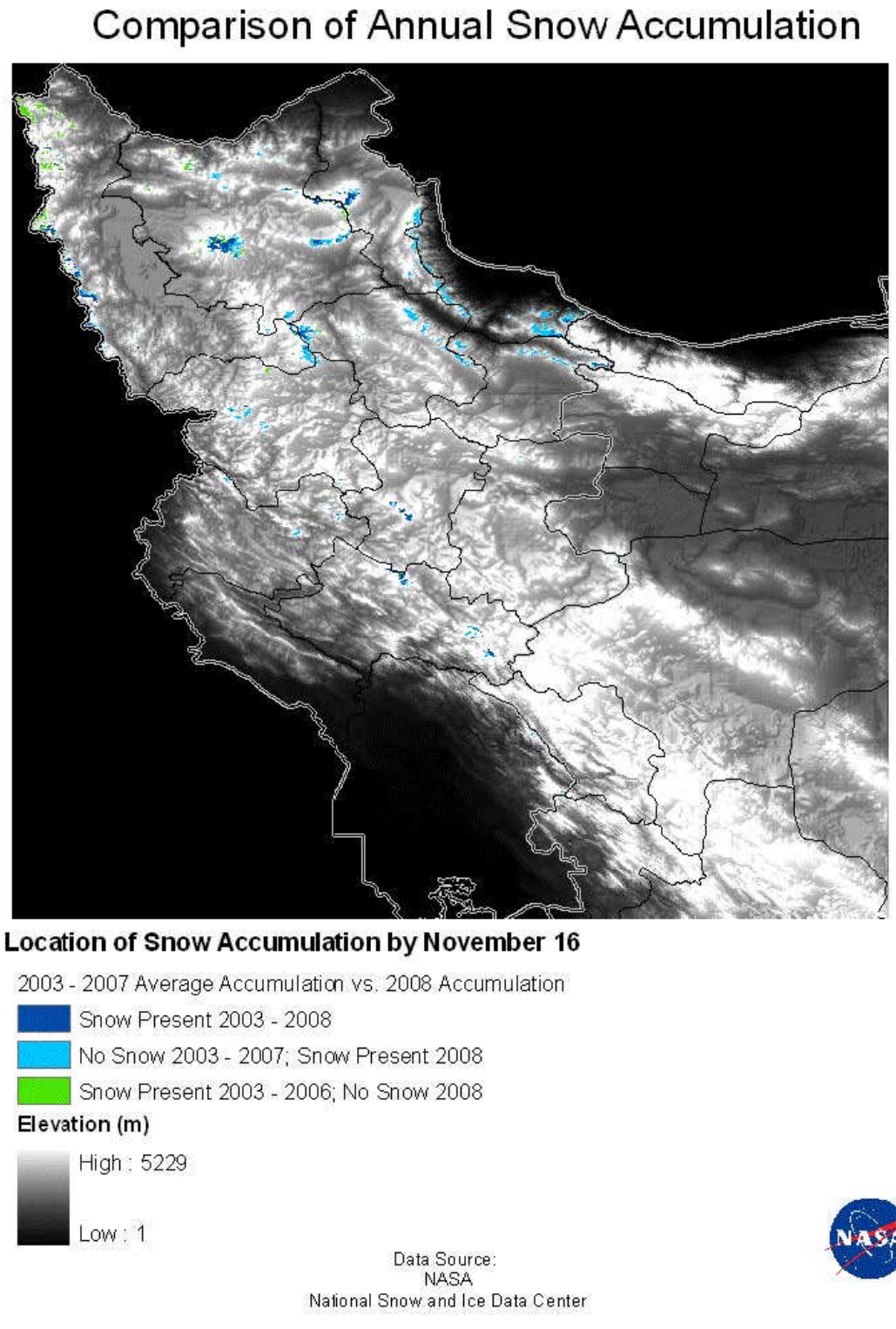


Figure 6. Snow accumulation by the 16th day of November, comparing current snowpack to the five year average.